

August 29, 2011

Dear colleagues,

It's great to have everyone back for the start of a new year. The kick-off events and activities were extremely well planned, had great participation and definitely added to the excitement that always comes with this time of year.

The Sycamore Carnival provided a new twist to the annual Welcome Back Picnic for faculty and staff. The entire staff of the Student Recreation Center, including John Lentz, Dave Stowe, Kimberly Monte, Hollie Adams, Chelsea Carlen, Theresa Ortega, Heidi Buchanan and a host of student employees, did an incredible job conceptualizing the event, preparing the Center and cleaning up afterward with much help from Paul Reed and the Facilities Management staff. Kay Ponsot, Rita Anderson, Teddy Lenderman, Teresa Exline, and Sue Sluyter rounded out the planning committee. Sodexo provided a wonderful assortment of carnival food, and the vice presidential divisions, the ISU Foundation, the Staff Council and the Deans put their energy into creating some fun entertainment. Martha Reed came in full clown attire to add to the fun. Throw in some talented (and some not so talented) karaoke participants and an enthusiastic student DJ, and it was definitely a party atmosphere. Door prizes were provided by units across campus along with Sodexo, Barnes and Noble Bookstore and the ISU Foundation. Top winners of the day included Lynda Melton who snared the iPad, and Carole Yaw who won the parking permit for the parking garage and all-surface lots. Dozens of others won other ISU items. Thanks also to everyone at the Carnival who helped our Ryves Neighborhood Partnership by donating school supplies, gift cards and cash for the Ryves Preschool.

Move-in weekend also went very smoothly with the assistance of more than 900 students including many student-athletes and "Greeks." I know the families appreciated the help on those hot days. A total of 1,400 laptops were distributed, and the opening convocation put the ISU spirit into our new students. There was also great participation by faculty and staff. The March Through the Arch ceremony was as much fun as ever followed by Sycamore Sunday. Thanks to all of you who attended the convocation.

The Class of 2015 received national attention with their class photo spelling out TREES. A time-lapse video of the project was featured by The Chronicle of Higher Education in its Video Wednesday. You can watch it at: http://chronicle.com/blogs/tweed/video-wednesday-49/28943?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en. Joe Thomas, Holly Arnett, Tony Campbell and Tracy Ford along with our student orientation leaders and the fire department played roles in putting this together. Sodexo also arranged for water to be donated by Pepsi to help keep our students from dehydrating on this hot afternoon. Other highlights of move-in weekend and the opening convocation and other activities were captured in a separate video, available at <http://www.indstate.edu/news/video.php?videoid=695>.

Our commitment to community service was also evident during opening week with 511 students donating their time during the fall Donaghy Day to clean up the downtown area in

preparation for last weekend's Downtown Block Party. The event, which is organized by the Center for Community Engagement, helps our new students meet each other while also developing an understanding of this core component of an ISU education.

Classes kicked off on Wednesday, and I would like to thank all of the departments and faculty who helped add sections to accommodate the large freshman class. While the official fall headcount won't be finalized until the end of the fifth day of classes, it appears our freshmen class is nearly as large as last year's record-setting group, and the number of transfer students is about even. This year's freshman class has an average high school GPA of 3.04, .06 higher than last year and the highest in more than a decade. Total enrollment figures will be announced tomorrow. Despite a significant shift in state policy that will reduce the enrollments ISU receives as part of the Correctional Education Program, it appears that our on-going recruitment efforts and emphasis on helping students succeed will make up most, if not all, of this loss. This information will be included in the performance metrics I will be reporting on during my annual fall address (Wednesday, October 5 at 3 p.m. in Tilson Music Hall). Work on the metrics that will be established for next fall's class is already underway.

Another annual event that helps start the new year is Cheri's lemonade stand. She had a great time meeting students, faculty and staff and appreciated the classic lemonade stand that our facilities management crew built. The new students who stopped by seemed enthused with their classes, their residence halls and the experiences they have had so far.

The Downtown Block Party was also a huge hit with great weather, wonderful entertainment, scrumptious food and dozens of vendors offering an array of handmade items. Organized by Downtown Terre Haute, which is led by our own Chris Pfaff, the block party is one of many events that are energizing our downtown and campus community.

A successful start to a great year requires hours and hours of effort by dozens, if not hundreds, of individuals. I have mentioned only a few of the people who helped make this one of the best openings to an academic year I have ever witnessed. Thanks to everyone for your dedicated work.

Of course, it doesn't stop here! The implementation of "The Pathway to Success" strategic plan continues, and there are currently more than 30 initiatives in progress. Under our student success goal, this summer's LEAP program brought 37 at-risk students to campus to participate in a mandatory college preparedness program which includes a college-level course they must pass in order to enroll for classes at ISU this fall. All of the students succeeded and 36 decided to enroll for this fall. One student decided he wasn't ready for the transition and plans to pursue coursework at a community college before returning.

A lot of work has also been done to help our new faculty and staff members acclimate to ISU. The Quality of Life Committee, ably led by Linda Maule, has planned a variety of activities including a reception to welcome these new colleagues. Join in welcoming these members of our community on Thursday, September 1, in from 4 to 6 p.m. in the University Art Gallery in the Center for Performing and Fine Arts.

Another initiative related to the strategic plan is the creation of a Center for Student Research and Creativity announced last week. The center, led by veteran ISU faculty member Tom Steiger, will help expand the opportunities our students have to engage in meaningful research and creative projects. Tom's ultimate goal, which will help the University achieve its goals related to experiential learning, is to have every student engage in a semester-long (or longer) creative project. Congratulations to Tom on his new position and to the working group for helping define the center's functions and responsibilities.

Later this year, a mid-term report on The Pathway to Success, its initiatives and the progress made toward benchmarks will be shared with the campus and the public.

Other items I would like to highlight:

- Indiana State's athletic training education program has been awarded continuing accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education. Congratulations to everyone involved.
- Uwe J. Hansen, emeritus professor of physics, has received the Distinguished Service Citation from the Acoustical Society of America for his contributions to the Society in musical acoustics, education in acoustics, leadership and outreach. Uwe's research included using holography to study the physics of musical instruments.
- In support of Indiana's College GO! Week, ISU will waive its standard \$25 undergraduate application fee during the entire month of September. If you know of any students planning to attend ISU next fall, encourage them to take advantage of this waiver.
- The campus and community are invited to join in ISU's celebration of Women's Equality Day this evening for a screening of *Iron Jawed Angels*, (2004), starring [Hilary Swank](#), [Frances O'Connor](#), [Julia Ormond](#), and [Anjelica Huston](#). The two-hour film, which focuses on the [American women's suffrage](#) movement in the early 1900s and the passage of the 19th Amendment, will begin at 6 p.m. in the Library's Event area.
- Barnes & Noble is also having a Back to School event from 6-10 pm this evening, with food, games, and prizes, drop by if you get a chance.

I look forward to seeing you on campus and at various events throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President